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work in Chicago. They have decided to develop the medical work already begun at the site of the university in Urbana-Champaign.

To carry on this enterprise a special building is absolutely necessary, since there is no available space to house such work in the buildings now upon the campus, or in those authorized to be erected by the present legislature.

The trustees of the University of Illinois, therefore, have asked the general assembly to appropriate at its special session the sum of \$250,000 for the development of its work in public health and medicine at Urbana-Champaign. The greater part of this money will be used for the erection, furnishing and equipment of a medical building. It is proposed to organize those fundamental courses in medicine and public health which should be required by all schools of medicine, and which every physician, no matter what method of practise he may adopt, must be presumed to know, such as physiology, bacteriology, histology, anatomy, pathology and sanitation.

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#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

At the meeting of the National Academy of Sciences, held in Washington on April 18, new members were elected as follows: R. W. Wood, professor of experimental physics at the Johns Hopkins University; Harry Fielding Reid, professor of geological physics at the Johns Hopkins University; David White, geologist, U. S. Geological Survey; Roland Thaxter, professor of cryptogamic botany at Harvard University; Chas. B. Davenport, director of the Station for Experimental Evolution, Cold Spring Harbor, N. Y.; W. M. Wheeler, professor of economic entomology at Harvard University; John J. Abel, professor of pharmacology at the Johns Hopkins University; S. J. Meltzer, head of the department of physiology and pharmacology of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research.

THE committee on policy of the American Association for the Advancement of Science held meetings at Washington on April 16 and 17. There were present Mr. Minot, chairman

of the committee; Mr. Pickering, president of the association; Mr. Woodward, treasurer; Mr. Howard, permanent secretary, and Messrs. Cattell, Humphreys and Noyes. Various questions were considered, more especially the division of the association into sections, the relation of the sections to the affiliated societies and the program for the Cleveland meeting.

AMONG the many victims of the terrible disaster to the *Titanic* on April 15, were the following members of the American Association for the Advancement of Science: Mr. Edgar J. Meyer, the well-known mining engineer of New York, who joined the association at the second Baltimore meeting in 1908. Colonel John Jacob Astor who, as is well-known, was greatly interested in mechanical and engineering problems, and who joined at the third New York meeting in 1906. Mr. Frank D. Millet, the well-known artist of Washington, New York and London, who joined at the same meeting as did Colonel Astor. Mr. Millet's interest in science was great and was intensified by his long association with the scientific men in the Cosmos Club of Washington. Dr. Howard, the permanent secretary of the association relates the following anecdote of Mr. Millet: At the time of the meeting of the International Congress of Zoology at Washington in 1907, following the Boston meeting, Dr. Howard was dining one night at the Cosmos Club with Geza Horvath, of the Natural History Museum of Budapest, and G. Severin, of the Natural History Museum of Brussels. As Millet entered the room, he was called over since his knowledge of foreign languages was great and he was much interested in the foreign visitors. He was introduced and at once saluted Horvath in excellent Hungarian; then turning to Severin, instead of speaking to him in French as one naturally would do to a visitor from Brussels, addressed him in Flemish, having, with his artistic eye, noted his apparent descent. Both foreigners were greatly charmed and became at once interested in the man and have always sent greetings to him in their later letters to Dr. Howard.

DR. PAUL G. FREER, director of the United States Government Scientific Bureau in the Philippines and previously professor of chemistry in the University of Michigan, died at Beguio on April 17, at the age of forty-nine years.

THE letters of the late Professor William James are being collected for biographical purposes. Those who have any of his letters can render assistance that will be highly appreciated by addressing Mr. Henry James, Jr., 95 Irving Street, Cambridge, Mass. Casual or brief letters may have an interest or importance not apparent to the person preserving them; and news of the whereabouts of such letters will be gratefully received.

MR. A. D. HALL, F.R.S., has resigned from the directorship of the Rothamsted Experiment Station.

PROFESSOR H. F. NEWALL, F.R.S., has been elected a member of the Athenæum Club for distinguished eminence in science.

PROFESSOR PAUL WALDEN, of Riga, has been elected an honorary member of the Chemical Society, London.

AT the annual meeting of the Harvey Society, held on April 10, the following officers were elected for 1912-13:

*President*—Frederic S. Lee.

*Vice-president*—William H. Park.

*Treasurer*—Edward K. Dunham.

*Secretary*—Haven Emerson.

*Additional Members of the Executive Committee*—S. J. Meltzer, Graham Lusk, W. G. McCallum.

THE *Journal* of the American Medical Association states that a dinner was given to Dr. Ludvig Hektoen at the Chicago Club on April 11 by the faculties of Rush Medical College and the College of Physicians and Surgeons and his former students at these institutions, in honor of the twenty-first anniversary of his entrance into the practise of medicine. Dr. Frank Billings presided. An oil-painting of Dr. Hektoen was presented to him by his friends, the presentation speech being made by Dr. E. R. Le Count. Professor E. O. Jordan and Drs. H. Gideon Wells and James B. Herrick responded to toasts.

PROFESSOR GEORGE GRANT MACCUBBY, of Yale University, is installing a hall of European prehistoric anthropology for the American Museum of Natural History, New York.

DR. J. N. ROSE, who has recently been appointed research associate in the Department of Botanical Research of the Carnegie Institution, sailed for Europe on April 17, where he goes to investigate cactus collections in the various botanical gardens of England, France, Italy and Germany. He will be away about two months. His European address will be: Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, London, England.

PROFESSOR G. FREDERICK WRIGHT, professor emeritus of geology at Oberlin College, president of the Ohio State Archeological and Historical Society, is carrying on a systematic investigation of the Ohio mounds. At present the society is erecting two buildings of importance, one at Columbus, costing \$100,000, to serve as a general library and museum, the other at Fremont, costing \$40,000, to hold the library of Americana left by the late President Rutherford B. Hayes. Professor Wright has in press a volume on "The Origin and Antiquity of Man," which will appear in July.

ON March 27 Dr. Samuel W. Williston, professor of paleontology in the University of Chicago, delivered an address to the students of the Kansas State Agricultural College, at Manhattan. Coincidentally this date was the fortieth anniversary of his graduation from the college. On this date also he matriculated his youngest daughter in the domestic science department of the college. On March 29 Professor Williston delivered a lecture on the "Evolution of Early Vertebrates" to a special meeting of the College Science Club.

AT the annual meeting of the Michigan Academy of Science, held at Ann Arbor March 27-29, the principal address was delivered by Professor Albert A. Michelson, of the University of Chicago. The subject of the address, which was illustrated, was "Iridescent Colors in Birds and Insects." Professor E. C. Case, of the University of Michigan, was elected president of the academy.

THE lecture on "North American Deserts" given by Dr. D. T. MacDougal before the Royal Geographical Society of London in December was repeated by him on request before the four branches of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society in Dundee, Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Glasgow during the first week in April.

PROFESSOR FREDERIC S. LEE, of Columbia University, lectured before the International Y. M. C. A. Training School at Springfield, Massachusetts, on April 12, on "Some Aspects of Muscular Action."

DR. FRANK D. KERN, of Purdue University, gave an illustrated lecture on April 15 before the local Academy of Agricultural Science on the "Floral and Scenic Features of Colorado." A number of seasons spent in studying the plant rusts of that state supplied the basis for the lecture.

PROFESSOR FRANCIS E. LLOYD has recently lectured before the botanical seminar of the Johns Hopkins University on some of his recent work on the tannin content of the acorn (*Quercus laurifolia*). Somewhat later he lectured also before the students of the department of biology, Teachers College, Columbia University, on recent advances in the teaching of botany.

UNDER the auspices of the department of geology two lectures by Professor Isaiah Bowman, of Yale University, were on April 4th delivered at the University of Michigan. The subjects of these lectures were: "The Mountains and Deserts of Bolivia" and "Geographical Explorations in the Peruvian Andes."

DR. IRVING A. FIELD, special investigator for the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries, lectured at Trinity College on the evening of April 18, on the subject "Utilization of Hitherto Unused Marine Organisms as Food."

DR. MARIE STOPES has given a course of ten lectures on the general and geological aspects of paleobotany at University College, London. It was the first course on this aspect of the subject to be given in London.

ON the evening of March 29, the Pennsylvania Chapter of the Society of the Sigma Xi was addressed by Professor William J. Gies, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University, on the subject, "Chemistry in the Service of Biology." Professor Gies reviewed the history of biological chemistry, explained the problems now being attacked by biological chemists and outlined the problems still open for investigation.

AT the Washington birthday celebration of the University of Pennsylvania it was announced that a donation had been received to endow "The Leidy Memorial Lecture in Science" in memory of the late Professor Joseph Leidy.

WE learn from *Nature* that the Essex Field Club has recently appointed a committee for the purpose of raising a small fund to put in order the tombs of John Ray and Benjamin Allen (which stand adjacent to one another in the churchyard at Black Notley, but have been allowed to fall into disrepair), and to erect at Braintree a memorial to Samuel Dale, of that town, to whom no memorial exists. These three naturalists were friends and contemporaries, living at Braintree or in its immediate vicinity in the closing years of the seventeenth century and the opening years of the eighteenth.

DR. EDWARD DIVERS, F.R.S., emeritus professor of chemistry in the University of Tokyo, died on March 8, aged seventy-five years.

DR. A. PACINOTTI, professor of physics at Pisa, has died at the age of seventy-one years.

THE U. S. Civil Service Commission announces an examination on May 8, to fill vacancies as they may occur in the position of scientist in soil survey, at a salary of \$1,600 per annum, in the Department of Agriculture, for duty in the field.

THE Columbia Chapter of the honorary Society of Sigma Xi held its annual initiation and banquet on April 4. At the initiation ceremonies, the 36 new members elected to the society were welcomed by the president of the chapter, Professor George F. Sever.

He explained the origin and purpose of the society, and introduced Professor Henry S. Munroe who spoke on the "Significance of Sigma Xi." At the banquet which followed at the university, representatives were present from the chapters at Cornell, Yale and Pennsylvania.

MR. C. W. LENG has put his valuable collection of "long horned" beetles at the disposal of the American Museum of Natural History for use in filling gaps in its collections. This means a gift of some 870 specimens covering nearly 300 species not hitherto acquired. Mr. John A. Grossbeck, who has been specializing for some time on the Geometridæ, has given to the museum his entire collection of these moths in addition to the series previously donated.

WE learn from *Nature* that the sixty-fifth annual general meeting of the Paleontographical Society was held in the Geological Society's rooms at Burlington House on March 22, Dr. Henry Woodward, F.R.S., president, in the chair. The annual report referred to the completion of the monograph of English Chalk fishes, and of the second volume of that of Pleistocene mammalia. It also acknowledged the help of the Carnegie Trust for the universities of Scotland in providing the plates for another instalment of Dr. Traquair's monograph of Carboniferous palæoniscid fishes. A special effort had been made to complete works in progress before beginning new undertakings. Miss Margaret C. Crosfield, Mr. George Barrow, Mr. H. R. Knipe and Professor W. W. Watts were elected new members of council. Dr. Henry Woodward, Dr. George J. Hinde and Dr. A. Smith Woodward were reelected president, treasurer and secretary respectively.

THE natural history library of the University of Illinois has been enriched by the addition of a set of *Flora Braziliensis*, in forty folio volumes and costing \$1,500. The set is written in Latin and is said to be the fourth obtained by American libraries, others being at Harvard, Columbia and the Shaw Botanical Gardens.

It is stated in *Nature* that the whole of the famous collection formed by the Rev. Canon Norman, F.R.S., consisting of North Atlantic and Arctic invertebrates other than insects, arachnids and myriopods, has now become the property of the Natural History Museum, the fourth and last instalment having been received recently at Cromwell Road. Of Mollusca there were specimens in 7,114 glass-topped boxes, of Crustacea there were 7,376 bottles and tubes containing specimens, and there were, in addition, 5,544 microscopical slides. The Polyzoa were contained in 1,063 glass-topped boxes, while there were 497 spirit specimens and 185 microscopical slides. The "lower invertebrata" were numerously represented in the earlier instalments.

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#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

THE University of Chicago has established a system of retiring allowances for professors or their widows. A fund of \$2,500,000 taken from the \$10,000,000 Rockefeller gift of 1910 has been set aside for this purpose. This pension system will grant to men who have attained the rank of assistant professor or higher, and who have reached the age of sixty-five, and have served fifteen years or more in the institution, 40 per cent. of their salary, and an additional 2 per cent. for each year's service over fifteen. The plan also provides that at the age of seventy a man shall be retired unless the board of trustees specially continues his services. The widow of any professor entitled to the retiring allowance will receive one half the amount due him, provided she had been his wife for ten years.

AT Princeton University a fund of \$5,000 has been established by Mr. Albert Plaut, of New York, for the purpose of encouraging the study of chemistry, especially by securing distinguished chemists to address the Chemical Club; and the Louis Clark Vanuxem foundation has been established by a bequest of \$25,000, under the will of Mr. Vanuxem, for the support of a series of lectures at Princeton annually, at least one half of which must be